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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/511,548	02/23/2000	Yoshifumi Maitani	FUJIP0108US	6152

7590 12/04/2003

Neil A. DUChez
Renner Otto Boisselle & Sklar P L L
1621 Euclid Avenue
19th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115

EXAMINER

SAFAIPOUR, HOUSHANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/511,548

Applicant(s)

MAITANI ET AL.

Examiner

Houshang Safaipour

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's response filed on August 18, 2003 has been entered and made of record.

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumashiro (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,408) and further in view of Mu-tung et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,864).

Regarding claim 1, Kumashiro discloses an image reader having a first and second reference plates and two operating modes of stationary reading mode and automatic document feeder (ADF) mode. (col. 5, line 35 through col. 6 line 26).

a control section that controls the readout section in such a way that the readout section reads the first standard white board prior to the initiation, of the document read to thereby perform the shading correction (col. 6, lines 27-50). Kumashiro does not explicitly disclose correcting the quantity of irradiation light of said readout section, based on the reflected light from the white plates. Mu-tung et al. discloses an apparatus for controlling the output intensity of a light source based upon output readings from the CCD. Referring to fig. 2 the digital image output signal 14, resulted from light output 8, reflected from standard white plate 7 and

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introduced through the optical element 9, CCD 11 and A/D converter 13 is compared to original voltage 1 in CPU 15 and generates control signal 16 for adjusting the intensity of the light emission of the light source (col. 3, lines 20-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the apparatus disclosed by Mu-Tung et al. with that of Kumashiro. Because adding the capability of adjusting the intensity of the light emission of the light source would improve the image quality.

Regarding claim 2, the arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1 are applicable to claim 2.

Regarding claim 3, Nosaki et al. discloses an image reader having a second standard white board in an external region of an end portion of the document (the arguments stated for claim 1 are also applicable to this claim limitation).

Regarding claim 4, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1 are applicable to claim 4.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1 are applicable to claims 5 and 6.

Regarding claim 7, Nosaki et al. discloses an image reader according to claim 1, wherein the readout section comprises a light source for irradiating light to the document, and the control section controls the quantity of irradiation light of the light source based on the reflected light from said second standard white board (please refer to claim 1).

Regarding claims 8-11, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7 are applicable to claims 8-11.


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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (703)306-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles, Sr. can be reached on (703)305-4712. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-0377.

Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622
November 18, 2003


EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER